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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	:	Before the Examiner:
Shepherd Shi et al.	:	Brian D. Goddard
	:	
Serial No.: 09/740,226	:	Group Art Unit: 2171
	:	
Filing Date: December 19, 2000	:	Intellectual Property Law
	:	IBM Corporation
Title: APPARATUS FOR INDIRECT	:	11400 Burnet Road
DIRECTORY SEARCHES AND	:	Austin, Texas 78758
METHOD THEREFOR	:	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT CONCURRENT WITH APPLICANTS'
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUL 09 2004

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

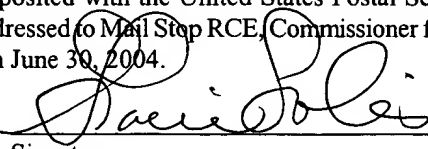
Concurrent with this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 in the present Application. Applicants have timely filed its request and have paid the fee in full. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the claims by canceling claims 1-27 and adding claims 28-45 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as indicated below.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on June 30, 2004.



Signature

Gracie Solis

(Printed name of person certifying)